



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.
MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, 1879.

The passage by the Senate of Virginia, on Friday last, of the bill authorizing the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal to the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad Company, supplemented by the passage on the following day of the bill providing for the settlement of the State debt by the same body, shows that the Senate at least is not so conservative as some of its former acts have led us to conclude, and if the House of Delegates will concur at once in the Senate's action on both these bills, that body also will redeem its good name in no slight degree, and relieve the present General Assembly of much of the odium that now legitimately attaches to it. The advantages that will result to the State from the passage of the bill authorizing the sale of the canal are not so apparent, but as those who should know most about the facts in the case, and to whom the construction of a railroad along the line of the canal and its once contemplated extension will be most advantageous, and to whom the failure to build such a road will be most disadvantageous, are convinced that the effect of the bill will be to promote the prosperity of the whole region of country through which the proposed road is to run, we are indisposed to discredit their assertions, and the more so because such prosperity as they anticipate for themselves from the passage of the bill must of necessity result beneficially upon the State at large. About the advantages that must result from the passage of the bill for compromising and settling the State debt, however, there can be no doubt. They are so patent that all who do not shut their eyes must see them. The State borrowed money and agreed to pay six per cent. for it, but the creditors now agree not only to extend the time for which the loan was made but to reduce the rate of interest for the whole time, and for the first ten years of it to exactly one half of what was promised them. Could an individual in the conduct of his private affairs expect more liberal terms? If he had borrowed money and spent it in buying lots and erecting buildings, expecting to repay it on the profits of a returning ship and that ship foundered at sea, would his creditors be so kind as to attach his real estate or to say to him "Take your time about paying the principal of the debt, and for ten years, or until your real estate increases in value, pay us only half the interest that was agreed upon?" The latter is just what the creditors of Virginia have done. The motives that prompted the offer of these favorable terms are not proper factors in determining the advisability of accepting them. Whether the creditors were actuated by kindly sympathy for the State's present depressed financial condition, or by the belief that the available resources of the State would not warrant the acceptance of a proposition less favorable to her interests, or by the knowledge that with many people in the State the debatable point was the acceptance of this proposition, one containing even greater concessions, or no terms at all, and the consequent application of the principle of the rule that half a loaf is better than no bread, is a question the correct answer to which should have no influence upon those to whom the terms are proposed. The matter for them to decide is could they as honorable and reasonable men, having their own and the present and future welfare of their State at heart, have offered to them terms that could possibly be more lenient save only at the expense of the deserved pride of the well merited honor and the justifiable pride that have distinguished Virginia from the days of her Cavalier ancestors down to the present time? It is unnecessary to say that they could not, and that being so the sooner they pass the bill the better it will be for them, the State, and those to whose interests many of their former actions they never give a passing thought—their unfortunate constituents.

The United States House of Representatives, last Saturday evening, concurred with the Senate's amendments to the bill excluding the Chinese from the privilege of American asylum, granted to the people of every other country in the world, and all that is now required to make the bill a law is the President's approval. According to the Congress of the United States this country is no longer a refuge to the oppressed of all nations. Barbarians from the remotest recesses of Ethiopia can come here in hordes, if they choose, and be welcomed to all the privileges and immunities of American citizenship, but ineffective, industrious and law-abiding people from the cradle of civilization are informed, and in no very courteous manner either, that they must keep away. The flagrant violation of treaty stipulations and subversion of many of the requirements of international law contained in this bill, as the insulted nation is thousands of miles off, is peacefully ignored, and is hereditarily exclusive in its policy, might, however, injure this country only in the immaterial way of the estimation in which it is held among the sisterhood of nations, were it not that the trade with China has now reached immense proportions, and that its stoppage, which must be the result of the operation of this bill, will be experienced and add to the expenses of every household in the United States. For both moral and material reasons, therefore, we hope Mr. Hayes may veto the bill, and thus save the country from the harm the members of Congress would inflict upon it for no other purpose than to gain the vote of the sand-hillers of California for the party to which they respectively belong.

The Court of Rapides Parish, La., has, on application of Addie Nott Graham for change of name, ordered that the name of Addie

North Graham be changed to Caroline Homestead Graham. Miss G. is a daughter of Gen. Geo. Mason Graham, late a resident of King George county, Va.

It is announced that a treaty recently concluded between the United States and Japan has been rendered practically inoperative by a clause alleged to have been surreptitiously inserted.

The Richmond Dispatch says:—"The great difficulty in the House nowadays is to keep a quorum together." This is a shame, and some remedy ought to be devised.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[SPECIAL TO THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.

The House met this morning at ten o'clock, having recessed on Saturday evening last until that hour. The consideration of the internal revenue bill was resumed, and of the Senate's amendments, those relating to distilleries, and matches, were not concurred in, while that fixing the time for the bill to go into operation was concurred in. The clock then indicated five minutes of eleven o'clock the House adjourned until Monday morning at 11 o'clock. In five minutes thereafter the House reassembled, not concurred with the Senate's amendment to the internal revenue bill relating to banks, and then all the provisions of the bill having been considered, a committee of conference was appointed on the clauses upon which the two houses disagree.

Among the bills passed this morning were those removing the political disabilities of G. H. Hill, Samuel Barron, J. A. Loving and J. T. Rustick, of Virginia.

Mr. Jorgenson introduced a bill providing for collecting the money due the Confederate States in Europe and devoting it to the purchase of artificial limbs for maimed ex-Confederates.

Mr. Cabell presented the resolutions of the General Assembly of Virginia with regard to the usurpation of State jurisdiction by Judge Rives of the U. S. District Court of the western district of Virginia.

After the call of States Mr. Hooker called up a bill providing for the erection of government buildings in various parts of the South, and moving suspension of the rules in order that it might be passed. An aye and nay vote on his motion was in progress when this report closed.

In the Senate to-day a bill was passed authorizing the enlistment of the crew of James Gordon Bennett's yacht *Jeannette*, which is to endeavor to discover the North Pole via Behring Straits, as sailors in the U. S. navy, in order to perfect discipline may be enforced among them.

A bill was passed authorizing the appointment of a commission to proceed at once to the sale of the assets of the Freedmen's Bank, the distribution thereof among the depositors of said bank, and the winding up of the affairs of that bank as soon as possible.

A bill making an appropriation to the new lunch room of the District of Columbia was passed.

Mr. Windom called up his resolution respecting the migration of the colored people of the South, but it went over under the rules.

Mr. Cameron, of Wisconsin, gave notice that as soon as the Army Appropriation bill was passed he would call up the resolution for giving Mr. Butler's seat to Mr. Corbin.

The consideration of the Army Appropriation bill was then resumed, and the amendment providing for railroad telegraphs discussed by Messrs. Jones, Bayard, Howe, Hill, Mitchell and others. The natural inference drawn from Mr. Bayard's speech was that he would oppose the engrafting of all legislative measures upon appropriation bills, including, of course, the repeal of the Federal election laws.

The Senate District of Columbia Committee met this morning, but passed by the consideration of the bill for a free bridge across the Potomac at Georgetown, and that bill is dead for the session unless a change shall by some means come over the dreams of Mr. Dorsey, chairman of the committee, whose senatorial term will expire on the 4th proximo.

The Election Committee of the House have determined to report in favor of allowing Mr. Metcalf, republican, the sitting member from the 3d Missouri district to retain his seat. It is now generally conceded that the bill for the repeal of the patron law will not be passed by the House this session.

It is currently reported and generally believed that the President will veto both the Chinese bill and the bill reducing the tax on tobacco.

A member of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House said to-day that his committee would hold no more meetings this session unless the House would allow them a day. As such consideration on the part of the House is not probable, it is unlikely that this Congress will devise the means for raising the money required by the arrears of pensions bill.

The idea that backbones is what is most wanted among democratic congressmen is spreading among the members of the House, but the reverse obtains at the other end of the Capitol. In view of all the democratic party has lost by the absence of the required amount of stamina among its leaders, this division of sentiment is remarkable. If the House insists upon the repeal of the Federal election laws, the appropriation for carrying on the government will not be made by this Congress, and an extra session will be necessary, though it may not be called immediately.

REGULATIONS FOR LENT.—Lent begins on Wednesday next. Bishop Keane, of the Catholic Church, instead of issuing a separate schedule of regulations for the diocese of Richmond, has directed the observance of these appointed by Archbishop Gibbons, for the diocese of Baltimore, which are as follows:—

"All the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year are, unless legitimately dispensed, bound to observe the fast of Lent. They are to abstain from meat every day, excepting Sundays. The most allowed on fast days is not to be taken until about noon. Flesh meat and fish are not to be used at the same meal during Lent. A small refreshment, commonly called collation, is allowed in the evening, not to exceed the fourth part of an ordinary meal. It is permitted to use bread, butter, cheese, eggs, to eat of kinds of fruit, salads, vegetables and fish at the collation. General usage has made it lawful to take in the morning some warm liquid, as tea, coffee or thin chocolate made with water, and a mouthful of bread. Necessity and custom have authorized the use of eggs instead of butter in preparing permitted food. The following persons are exempt from the obligations of fasting: Persons under twenty years of age, the sick, nursing women, those who are obliged to do hard labor, all who through weakness cannot fast without great prejudice to their health. By dispensation the use of flesh meats will be allowed at all meals on Sundays, and once a day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with the exception of Holy Thursday and the second and last Saturdays of Lent. The faithful are reminded that besides the obligations of fasting imposed by the Church, this holy season of Lent should be in a special manner a time of earnest prayer, of sorrow for sin, of exclusion from the world and its amusements, and of generous almsgiving. The Paschal time extended from the first Sunday in Lent to Trinity Sunday, during which time all Catholics who have attained the use of reason are bound to prepare themselves to receive worthily the holy communion. The holy season of Lent is a very propitious time also for children to go to their first communion, which they ought to do generally when about seven years of age. Parents should see to this."

Col. Wm. Ross, formerly a famous stage driver and expressman, died at Providence, R. I., Saturday night. When Jimmy Lind visited Providence he paid \$653 for the first choice of seat.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Captain Barclay, of the Baltimore bark *Elverton*, has been murdered at sea by some of his crew.

Archbishop Purcell's liabilities prove to be nearly four million dollars. A relief lottery is proposed.

Rev. Berj. J. Haight, assistant minister at Trinity church, New York, for 25 years, died Friday night.

Henry Bigelow Williams, real estate agent, Boston, has filed a petition in bankruptcy with \$1,266,931 liabilities.

Advices from Rio Janeiro, Brazil, to Feb. 3, report the yellow fever there as increasing, the deaths numbering from five to ten daily.

In the United States Senate, Saturday, a communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, inclosing the draft of a bill for regulating the exportation of live animals.

The Virginia Annual Conference of the United Brethren Church will convene at Mechanicsville, Md., February 26. The conference comprises the State of Virginia and the Western Shore of Maryland.

In the Canadian Parliament attention has been called to the importance of quarantine precautions against the plague, as Russian emigrants might be expected during the present year. It was stated that the existing regulations were sufficient, and they could be rigidly enforced.

The Army Appropriation bill was further discussed in the Senate on Saturday, the section relating to the reorganization, being struck out by a vote of 45 to 18. The amendment striking out the provision forbidding the use of troops at the polls was agreed to—yeas 34, nays 30—the republicans and Mr. Davis, of Illinois, voting in the affirmative. The clause concerning the use of railway telegraph lines at rates to be fixed by the government led to a long debate.

The House of Representatives on Saturday, agreed to the Senate amendment to the bill restricting Chinese immigration without division, and the bill now goes to the President.

The Senate amendments to the bill reducing the tax on tobacco were called up, and after considerable confusion the amendments were concurred in, with the exception of those relating to the tax on rectified spirits, the tax on matches, the tax on books, and to the time when the bill shall take effect, which will come up to-day. The Sundry Civil Appropriation bill was reported.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Rev. James Anderson, a Baptist minister of Pittsylvania county, died last week.

Col. Edward A. Wyatt, a prominent citizen of Dinwiddie county, died last week.

The Virginia Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias will meet at Lynchburg next year.

Col. John A. Peterson, one of the oldest citizens of Petersburg, died Saturday last.

Mr. A. D. Mosby, of Bedford county, father of Col. John S. Mosby, died last Wednesday.

The directors of the Augusta Agricultural Society have resolved to invite President Hayes to their next fair at Staunton.

The Western Lunatic Asylum, at Staunton, is to be enlarged so as to accommodate 150 additional patients.

The Pace Brothers, formerly of Danville, are erecting a large tobacco warehouse in Lynchburg.

Wm. Jordan has sold his farm, 400 acres, in Augusta county, to A. W. Assen, an English gentleman, for \$12,000.

Mrs. E. A. Morrison, wife of a prominent physician of Brunswick county, died Saturday from burns received Friday while superintending the curing of meat in the smoke house.

An investigation Saturday of the report that Arthur H. Fletcher and Miss Bailey, who eloped from Baltimore a few days ago, were in Richmond, proved it to be incorrect.

In the U. S. Circuit Court at Richmond, Saturday, O. A. Erierson obtained a verdict for \$5,500 against the city of Manchester, for injuries sustained by falling down an embankment in that place.

The remains of the late Gen. R. H. Chilton, adjutant general to Gen. Lee, were buried in Hollywood Cemetery, at Richmond, Saturday, after funeral services at St. Paul's church. They were escorted to the grave by the First Virginia Volunteers, Gov. Holliday, Gen. W. H. F. Lee, president of the Army of Northern Virginia, and other prominent citizens.

On Friday night last a colored woman by the name of Sophia Barnes, who lived on the farm of Martin Foyne, about three and a half miles from Liberty, left her home to attend preaching, and looked up her three little children, the oldest being five and the youngest but little over a year old. Returning sometime afterward she found only the smoldering embers of her house. The bones of the little children lie heaped up in the midst of the smoldering embers. The flesh had all been consumed except two of the hearts which remained perfect.

Faunquier Items.

[From the Warrenton Index.]
Judge Gaines will be at home next week, but not in time to hold court on Monday. His place on the bench will be supplied by Judge Ball, of Culpeper. Grand and petit juries have been summoned, and John Williams, the alleged murderer of Howard Holzknecht, will be presented for indictment. If he elects to be tried by a jury, a trial will be held at Warrenton in the Circuit Court, trial will be deferred till the April term. All the evidence, elicited is circumstantial but strong, and points to Williams as the murderer. The corpse was exhumed last Sunday, when Dr. Ward, made a dissection of the head and reached the conclusion that death was caused by a minute bullet fired from a gun of very strong force.

L. A. Colgate, better known among familiar as "Doctor," met with a serious accident Tuesday. While drawing loads from a pepper box pistol, a cartridge exploded, passing through the palm of his left hand. The wound is a painful one.

Last week, parties unknown, but believed to be colored, broke into the store of Mr. Slack, at Paris, Fauquier, taking therefrom whisky, flour and groceries amounting to a considerable sum. No arrests.

Mrs. Leitch and brother, Vermont evangelists, who are popular with our colored people, have arrived in Warrenton. They appear to have created quite a sensation in Culpeper.

The house of A. L. Thompson in Warrenton, was robbed one night last week of a good portion of its supply of pork.

Revolution and Earthquake.

PANAMA, Feb. 15.—A dispatch from Buenos venture of the 6th inst., says:—"A revolution has broken out in the State of Antioquia in the interest of the Conservative party. There has been one fight already, resulting in some twenty-five killed, and the revolutionary party is stated to have had the worst of it."

Later advices are to the effect that 8,000 men from Antioquia have invaded the Cauca by the Valle de Sapia on the west bank of the river Cauca.

The call for 8,000 men by the national government has been supplemented by appeals from the President of the State of Cauca to the neighboring States for men and arms. The situation is considered very grave.

Another shock of earthquakes is announced as having been felt at Arequipa on the 19th ult. Fortunately it was not nearly as severe as the one reported a few days previous. There have also been sundry shocks felt at Iquique all very slight, however.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]
RICHMOND, Feb. 22.—There is general rejoicing in the city this evening over the passage of the compromise bill by the Senate. Of course all eyes are now turned to the House. The chances of its passage by that body are daily improving. It is understood that Mr. Fauntleroy, of Winchester, one of the leading readjusters in the House, is in favor of the bill. Mr. Fauntleroy is also a delegate to the readjusters' convention which meets on the 25th of next week and it is understood that he, as well as other members of the House, who are delegates to the convention, will move that that body ratify the compromise bill. All this certainly looks favorable to the passage of the bill.

In the House of Delegates, to-day, the bill relating to the records of the county of Alexandria was engrossed and read a third time.

By invitation Rev. John Jasper, colored, will preach to-morrow his celebrated sermon from the text, "The Lord is a man of war, the Lord is his name." This sermon will be preached for the benefit of the members of the Legislature. Rev. John Jasper, in this discourse, advances the theory which has made his name famous all over the world, namely, the "Jasperian Theory," that "the sun do move." The great mass of the colored people here believe implicitly in John Jasper. Some of them rather doubted his theory at first, but when they saw the white people crowding to hear him preach his celebrated sermon, and when they heard him propound the unanswerable question, "How come, if do earth move like do philosopher say it do how come my house is standing what it is. My house stood over do car do bill dis morning when I woke up and do car do move how come my house ain't do move over here on do next hill." The congregation never could get around this question, and various ejaculatory remarks of "dat's so," "dat mas talkin' sense," "you sayin' yes," indicated how strong the argument was. Your correspondent last spring stopped by the White Sulphur Springs in West Virginia, and met the original author of the colored gentleman's theory. The original author of the theory and he began to question him. In reply to the inquiry whether he knew John Jasper, the colored party said he "had heard of him constant," and further ventured, "dat mas a prophet. Dey tell me white folks go to hear him preach and learn something."

In the House to-day Mr. Robinson, of Portsmouth, endeavored to get the Constitutional amendments laid on the table. He said frankly that his object was to defeat them, and he warned the House that the opponents of the scheme had a sufficient force to keep the House from acting upon these amendments, and by dilatory motions and otherwise they could retard the business of the House until the time for adjournment, thus preventing action upon this and other measures. He adopted this course in self protection, because he regarded some of the proposed changes as ruinous to his people. This remark was made about twelve o'clock, and Mr. Robinson fulfilled his promise, for he and the other opponents of the measure by motions to adjourn and calling the ayes and nays did prevent anything being done, and at three o'clock the House adjourned.

The police and detectives of Richmond were thoroughly taken back when they found the couple they had been shadowing on Lieut. Fletcher and Miss Bailey was not in fact that couple at all. And yet the two parties answered exactly the description given by Lieut. Fletcher and Miss Bailey—the gentleman especially. He was slightly bald as Lieut. Fletcher is described to be, and of the same build as the gay cavalier. The rage of the gentlemen when he learned he had been watched by the police was of that kind that is met with in legend. And well he might be mad for he was on his bridal tour.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, Saturday, after a slight discussion on a bill to protect the cattle of the State from infectious diseases,

The McCulloch bill for an adjustment of the State debt was taken up, and after a protracted discussion being passed—yeas 39, nays 11, not voting 2, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bates, Blair, Brocken, Childs, Daniel, Dickinson, Gayle, Goode, Griffin, Grimley, Hairston, Hart of Halifax, Hart of Pittsylvania, Johnson, Keiser, Lee, Marshall, Moulton, Murray, Nunn, Pender, Sinclair, Smith, Spitzer, Stevens, Tanner, Tyler, Walston, Ward, and Westmore—39.

Nays—Messrs. Bliss, Elliott, Falkenberg, Sharkey, Norton, Paul, Powell, Quisenberry, Sherard, Slemmons, and Wood—11.

Absent or not voting—Messrs. Hinton and Nash—2.

The bill was then committed to the House.

A bill for the lease of the penitentiary and the hiring of convicts by the Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad Company, was referred.

In the House of Delegates, Mr. Mustinch, by request, introduced a joint resolution providing for the payment of a per diem compensation to the fish commission and necessary expenses.

Mr. Carter of Loudoun, presented petitions of citizens of the county of Loudoun, praying an increase of the pay of the county judge of Loudoun.

The joint resolution authorizing the Governor to place at the disposal of the civil authorities of Middlesex and Matthews counties arms and ammunition for the enforcement of laws for the protection of oysters was ordered to engrossment.

The Canal Railroad bill and the Constitutional amendments were discussed.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

Von Roon, the Prussian General, is dead. Pope Leo yesterday received representatives of 1,302 Catholic publications.

Ex-President Grant is at Allahabad (the City of God) in Hindostan.

The Archbishop of Adrianople was notified, but was severely injured by his assailants.

Prince Rasputin, Governor of Charkoff, Russia, was wounded by a shot from an assassin's revolver Friday night.

The czar's court physician says the plague in Russia is nearly extinct; over eighty per cent. of the cases were fatal.

Don Guzman Blanco whose presence is just now so much wished for in Venezuela, arrived at St. Thomas on the 17th, on his way home.

China has purchased cotton machinery and engaged spinners in Germany, intending to start in opposition to England and Russia.

It is reported that there Ali, the Ameer of Afghanistan, was dying at Kandahar of gangrene, which had attacked the whole left side two weeks ago.

The body of Bayard Taylor was sent from Berlin to Hamburg Friday and put on the steamship *Gallier*, which sails for New York Wednesday.

The King of the Zulus is reported discouraged, the fearful havoc among the troops having counteracted the effect of his victory. Over two hundred and fifty whites fell victims to the Zulus in the fight of January 22.

Advices from Hayti to the 13th say that General Benjamín's partisans have been completely defeated by General Canals and his forces, and the would-be president had escaped to the woods. The government is master of the situation.

DEATHS.

New Bedford, Mass. Feb. 24.—James S. Parker, a well-known hotel proprietor, died here yesterday. Mr. Parker was formerly connected with the Astor House, New York.

Rondout, N. Y., Feb. 24.—Hon. Abraham Bruyn Heabruich, an ex-member of Congress and ex-president of Rutgers College, died at his residence in Kingston last night, in his 85th year.

Letter from Chasseur.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]
RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 22.—The theatrical and opera season in Richmond has not been a pecuniary success this winter, and it is strange it is not so, for nowhere is there a more pleasure loving people, and a more cultivated musical talent than in the Seven Hills City. The Mozart has been filled and well patronized, and the several Theatrical Clubs have met with great success, but the legitimate, and I may add, according to the prevailing taste, the illegitimate drama, as found in the theatre, has generally been presented to half filled houses. The manager who makes buckle and togo meet will do well. He has nobody but himself to thank for the existing state of affairs, for a more ragged, dilapidated looking theatre inside couldn't be found outside the Five Points, or Saint Jiles. The wall paper hangs in tatters, and peels off like the bark off a dead black jack tree; the paint has become foul with dirt, and as for the scenery it requires a vivid imagination to make it fit the plays. The castle that Leonora sings her favorite song in, is the same from which the loving daughter of the Capulets sees the balcony scene, and, mirabile dictu, it is changed when required into an apartment where the Horse opera chants its melodies. These scenes have become well known to the city public; every hole torn in the river; every house with the paint smeared off; every tree with its huge rants and fissures; until it ceases to shock their sight, but to strangers it offends all their good taste and delicacy. A theatre handsomely furnished, with fine and appropriate scenery would undoubtedly pay and pay well here.

All the musical and dramatic circles, as well as of society, are excited over the anticipated opera of "Cinderella," which will be brought out in a single week even before in Richmond. It will be rendered entirely by native talent, and of gorgeous scenery, the high position of the performers, costly costumes and general get up, it will be unequalled. It will be placed on the boards of the Richmond theatre just after *Leont*, and the company are now busily engaged in rehearsing. The cast of *Cinderella* is as follows: Prince Felix, Mr. J. D. Redford; Baron Pomponelli, Mr. Chas. Jureyans; Alidoro, Mr. Theissen Cardozo; Dondoli, Mr. Luis Pazzini; Pedro, —; Cinderella, Miss Alice Swain; Clorinde, Miss Mamie Quade; Fairy Godmother, Mrs. Knowles. The actor Mr. Redford is a great society man here, and not only has a voice of great power and sweetness, but also is a fine actor. The basses, Mr. Pizzini has tones that would be marked even before the footlights. The soprano, Miss Alice Swain, has a voice that had she gone on the stage would have made her fame and fortune. With the exception of Kellogg, she has, I think, the purest, strongest, most flexible soprano of any American singer I have ever heard. She is a Mobile lady, and received a thorough musical education at the Philadelphia Academy of Music. She now resides in Richmond, and is the leader of the celebrated Musical Church choir. It is not impossible that she will yet become a prima donna.

The ballet will consist of thirty five children, and the grand march of the "Amazons" will have ninety five in glittering armor. The chorus will have one hundred voices, and there will be over three hundred performers at one time on the stage. Shepherd, the sculptor, will arrange the costumes, and the three Richmond artists, Elder, Allen and Daniels, will paint the scenery.

The opera will run several nights. It is for a charitable object. Mr. Charles Siegel will conduct the score.

As last approaches society is trying to crowd all the gaiety it can get into a very short space of time. Richmond is radiant now, and shows to the best advantage. Musicians, private theatricals, masquerades, balls, parties, receptions and dinners, on state, succeed each other with bewildering rapidity. There is no place where an entertainment can be so well given and so gracefully presided over as in Richmond, but I must confess that the jam made at the supper tables by the young society men, so called, reminds me strongly of a rush made by the poverty stricken at a soup house or the destitute swarm of tramps around a free lunch counter.

The marriage of Mr. Michie, of the House, to Miss Mary Nason, was a brilliant affair. Among the pleasant innovations on the old orthodox custom was that of having a band of music to disperse the sweet air while the guests were at the splendid collation. Miss Nason was one of the belles here, and her father, Judge Nason, is said to be the best entertainer in Richmond.

Mr. Gray, one of the Richmond members of the House, gave a elegant dinner party to his legislative friends this week. Mr. Gray has the finest cook in the State. An ancient colored maroon of that type that was the pride of the planter's house in the ante bellum days, and who ruled her realm with despotic powers. The menu was varied and finely served, and among the guests were several of the most noted epicures and bon vivants in the country. The dinner lasted several hours and was a most enjoyable affair. The guests were Maj. Spessard, Dr. Jordan, Mr. Henson, Col. Carter, Mr. Pulliam, ex-Speaker Hanger, Mr. Boone, Gen. Talaferris, Mr. Huetter, General Echols, and Messrs. Bohannon and Robinson, all of the House.

The next General Assembly will be as different from the present as a new deal at a hand at whist. Some old faces will be seen, but the hand will be entirely different. The oldest and most influential members will not return. The State debt being settled there will be no incentive for the influential men of the State to forget their private interest for the public good, for in addition to sacrificing their personal interest, the pay of the legislators of four dollars a day leaves them at the close of the session almost in debt.

G. N. Talaferris, who has been a member of the House for six years, will not be a candidate for reelection. Neither will Mr. Bohannon, of Matthews. General Echols will probably not come back. Marshall Hanger will return, and will, I think, be the next Speaker. He certainly is the best presiding officer in the State, and has no peer in the knowledge of parliamentary law. Mr. Boone will rest satisfied with the crowning achievement of his public life—the passage of the canal railroad bill, and ride in a palace car the rest of his days.

Tom Popham, another old member, and the most popular man in the General Assembly, will retire from the scene of his legislative and forensic labors.

Pat McCaul, of Rhanoke, one of the best flows that ever lived, will attend to his important private business rather than saunter through another legislative session.

Mr. Mcullen, of Greene county, who has filled his seat with honor to himself and credit to his constituents for eight consecutive years, and who is called the married Adonis, if Adonis can be said to have a spouse, and two angels bates, and wears a black beard, will not be the focus of admiring eyes any more. He has been faithful to his trusts and will retire with his well earned honors to the practice of his profession of law.

Tom Wallace, of Orange, has seen enough of Richmond society, at four dollars a day, to amply satisfy him.

George Walker, of Northumberland, will never again charm the listening Senate, or wake to ecstasy the living lyre, but will spend his days in voluntary dignified retirement.

Mr. James Barbour, of Culpeper, the leader of the House, will rest content with the prestige and renown he has made, and unless some great question involves the prosperity of the State should arise, he will remain at home in the practice of his profession.

Mr. Fauntleroy, of Winchester, notwithstanding his quiet influence in the House, has not yet decided his future course of action.

Spicer Corlett, another old member in occupancy and general divinity, but young in years, will hereafter tread the wine boards, and strut his brief life as the bird of Aron has it, across the political life, to make him a high like Grohns for the retirement and peace of a domestic life.

Mr. Farr, of Fairfax, a young member, but who has made a high reputation for himself, will return, and will probably be the choice of Fairfax for the next Senator, he would command a strong support in Alexandria county, and has many friends in Alexandria.

Among the new members, but few are willing to neglect their private business, and spend the winter in the most expensive city, I verily believe, in America.

A sad case happened here a few days ago, showing how a man can be tempted and fall when there is neither wine or women to beguile him. A certain farmer hailing not